

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of transmitting messages on a telecommunications network, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving from a sender terminal a text message,

synthesizing from the text message a synthesized voice signal,

altering said synthesized voice signal based on meta-information included with the received text message,

generating a-video content having an animated image as an image of a character that pronounces the altered synthesized voice signal,

integrating said text message with the video content to generate a multimedia message, and

transmitting to an at least ~~a-one~~ recipient terminal said multimedia message in the form of a Multimedia Messaging Service message.

2. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving said text message in the form of a Short Messaging Service message.

3. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of: identifying the type of recipient terminal able to receive said multimedia message by identifying the characteristics of said recipient terminal, and adapting said Multimedia Messaging Service message to the characteristics of said recipient terminal.

4. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 3 ~~wherein it comprises further~~ comprising the step of integrating said text message with a generated video content in such a way that said multimedia message is suited to the characteristics of said recipient terminal.

5. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising the steps of:
complementing said text message with a video content determined independently from the characteristics of the recipient terminal and
adapting the multimedia message thereby obtained to the characteristics of said recipient terminal.

6 - 8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of
generating the image of said character by means of a text animation system.

10. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of
integrating said Multimedia Messaging Service message with background music.

11. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of
including in said video content an image animated in Graphics Interchange Format.

12 - 13. (canceled)

14. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of
providing in said sender terminal a script function for the selection of said video content
and of said recipient terminal.

15. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of
providing in said sender terminal, a function for the automatic correction of any error
contained in said text message.

16. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of
~~associating with said text message meta-information for selectively~~ modifying the
characteristics of said video content based on said meta-information.

17. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of
associating with said text message additional information in the form of emoticons for
selectively modifying the characteristics of said video content.

18. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said video content is
selected from the group constituted by:

an animated image in Graphics Interchange Format ordered in frames, with respective
portions of said text message associated thereto,

an animated image in Graphics Interchange Format accompanied by compressed audio,
and

a video clip containing audio.

19. (currently amended) A system for transmitting messages on a telecommunications network,
the system comprising:

a reception module for receiving a text message from a sender terminal,

a voice synthesizer for synthesizing from the text message a voice signal and altering the
synthesized voice signal based on meta-information included with the received text message,

a motion-generating module for generating an animated image as an image of a character
that pronounces the altered synthesized voice signal,

a video-generating module for generating a video content comprising the animated
image,

a processing set having at least a data-base of video information and at least one
integration module for integrating said text message with a the video content to generate a
multimedia message, and

a transmission module for transmitting to at least ~~a-one~~ recipient terminal said multimedia message in the form of a Multimedia Messaging Service message.

20. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said reception module is configured to receive from said sender terminal a text message in the form of a Short Messaging Service message.

21. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 19, further comprising:

a detection module for detecting the type of recipient terminal intended as the recipient of said multimedia message by identifying the characteristics of said recipient terminal, and

a module for adapting said Multimedia Messaging Service message to the characteristics of said recipient terminal.

22. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 21 wherein said integration module is configured for integrating said text message with a generated video content in such a way that said multimedia message is suited to the characteristics of said recipient terminal.

23. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 21 wherein said integration module is configured to integrate said text message with a determined video content independently from the characteristics of the recipient terminal and in that the system has, associated therewith, a module for the transmission of MMS messages configured to subject said multimedia message to an step of adapting it to the characteristics of said recipient terminal.

24 - 26. (canceled)

27. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said motion-generating module is a text animation system.

28. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 19, further comprising:

a database of background music co-operating with said integration module to integrate said Multimedia Messaging Service message with background music.

29. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said integration module is configured to include in said video content an animated image of Graphics Interchange Format.

30. (canceled)

31. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said reception module includes an information extraction block for extracting from said text message received from said sender terminal at least a field identifying a characteristic of said video content selected from the group constituted by:

a virtual character to be used for the presentation of said text message, and
a background of said multimedia content.

32. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said processing set having said database of video information and said integration module to integrate said text message with a video content is configured to generate a multimedia message selected from the group constituted by:

an animated image in Graphics Interchange Format ordered in frames with associated respective portions of said text message,

an animated image in Graphics Interchange Format complete with compressed audio, and
a video clip complete with audio.

33. (previously presented) A sender terminal for a system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said sender terminal is provided with a script function for selecting said video content and said recipient terminal.

34. (previously presented) The sender terminal for a system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said sender terminal is provided with a function of automatic correction of any error which may be contained in said text message.

35. (currently amended) The sender terminal for a system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said ~~sender terminal is provided with a function for associating with said text message~~ meta-information ~~for selectively modifying~~ modifies the characteristics of said video content.

36. (previously presented) The sender terminal for a system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said sender terminal is provided with a function for associating with said text message additional information in the form of emoticons for selectively modifying the characteristics of said video content.

37. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 19, wherein the motion-generating module includes an animation module for selectively modifying a characteristic of the animated image based on at least one parameter specified in the text message.

38. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 19, further comprising:
a converter module for selecting the animated image,
wherein the text message from the sender terminal does not specify the animated image.